



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

REVIEWS AND NOTES.

Social Diagnosis. By Mary E. Richmond, Charity Organization Department, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1917, pp. 511.

Statistics of social difficulties and of social needs are conditioned by the technique of social diagnosis. Social statistics are dependent upon social diagnosis in much the same way that public health statistics are primarily affected by the methods and terminology of physical and other forms of medical diagnosis.

Miss Richmond in her book outlines the processes which led to social diagnosis. These are, first, the collection and careful scrutiny of evidence rising out of the social worker's relations with his client, with the client's family, and with sources of information outside the family group; and second, the reflective comparison and interpretation of the evidence from these sources. The older and narrower process of "investigation" in social case work, with its loose technique and its besetting sin of almost exclusive emphasis upon the *gathering* of evidence to the detriment of essential matters of comparison and interpretation, is properly subordinated in this book.

The author considers first the nature and uses of social evidence as a basis for diagnosis. She outlines the logical tests for meeting in a practical manner the "enormous difficulty of making sure that the facts are as stated to us by others . . . and of avoiding that 'instinctive theorizing' whence the fact looks to the eye as the eye likes the look." The practicing social statistician will appreciate to the full the urgency of recording as exact a definition as possible of a given social situation and of its proximate and remote relations and causes. There is a commendably thorough discussion of the definitions bearing upon social evidence, of the terms most frequently used, and of the types of evidence, *i. e.*, whether real evidence, testimonial evidence, or circumstantial social evidence. Each of these types of evidence is examined in close detail. Testimonial evidence is especially well developed. A concluding chapter discusses inferences from the data collected, the risks involved in drawing conclusions from the facts at hand and from the social worker's particular state of mind.

The second section of the book discusses the detailed processes leading to diagnosis, and includes very extended technical comment on the scope and method of the interview with the client, with members of the family group, consultation of outside sources of information, the sources and validity of medical, legal and other records. A concluding chapter of the second part of the work defines the principles of criticism and comparison of the collected material, and the statement of a diagnosis.

Statisticians reading Miss Richmond's book, will recall the difficulties and limitations encountered by such pioneers as Amos Griswold Warner, Frederick H. Wines, and John Koren in the collection of social statistics in America. So many of these difficulties arose from the lack of any uniformity of methods of collecting and recording the basic data. One of the

effects upon American social statistics which should follow the introduction of works such as Miss Richmond has made available for social workers, should be the marked improvement of charity organization and other philanthropic agency records. Improvement of the statement of social difficulties upon the case records should result in better composite pictures of the social situation through the agency of the statistical method.

There is already a noteworthy precedent in the statistical study of social case work and of its results in the recently published report of the municipal court of Philadelphia for 1915. The methods employed by Dr. Louise Stevens Bryant in the compilation of these records for Philadelphia, if employed in studying the data which will undoubtedly result from employing Miss Richmond's criteria of social diagnosis, should provide for the first time in America the kind of social statistics which Professor Warner and the social workers and statisticians who followed him have defined as necessary for a critical analysis and an impartial survey of practical philanthropy.

New York City.

E. W. KOPF.

Appendix A. Vol. I. Census of the Commonwealth of Australia. The mathematical theory of population, of its character and fluctuations, and of the factors which influence them, being an examination of the general scheme of statistical representation, with deductions of necessary formulae; the whole being applied to the data of the Australian census of 1911, and to the elucidation of Australian population statistics generally. By G. H. Knibbs, C.M.G., F.S.S., F.R.A.S., etc., commonwealth statistician. Published under instructions from the Minister of State for Home and Territories, Melbourne.

It is rare that a government census publication takes the form of this latest volume by Mr. Knibbs. As a rule census offices are so busy, collecting material, tabulating it, and getting out a brief analysis accompanied by a few charts, that they have no time to enter upon a scientific discussion of the uses which may be made of the volume. This is really a treatise on population statistics making use of the Australian figures primarily. In many cases the statistics of other countries are introduced for purposes of comparison. The first six chapters, covering about 85 pages, are devoted to a discussion of the formulas which may be used in determining the fluctuations and probable future course of populations. Then follows an interesting chapter upon graphics and the methods employed to smooth curves. After this, a discussion of population by sex and age, of natality, marriage rate, fecundity, mortality, and migration follows. An immense amount of work has gone into the preparation of this volume and the chart work is extremely clever and interesting. One would search long to find a better piece of analytical work than this. The census office of Australia is to be congratulated upon publishing such a volume and Mr. Knibbs deserves our thanks in showing the quality of work which can be done by its census office in addition to the details of collecting and compiling the basic figures.

Yale University.

Wm. B. BAILEY.